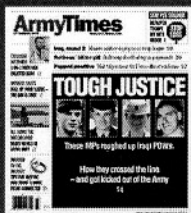


SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS

In This Week's Edition:



[Read today's
Early Bird Brief](#)

[Register For The
Daily News
Roundup](#)

[Pay Calculators](#)

[Special Reports](#)

You are currently logged in.

[Log Out](#)

Subscribers, register
for access to
ArmyTimes.com

[Customer Service](#)

[Subscribe to
Army Times](#)

[Renew Your
Subscription](#)

[Subscriber FAQ](#)

Subscribe to
ArmyTimes

Issue Date: December 29, 2003

Congressman seeks answers on shortage

Rep. Tom Allen, D-Maine, is investigating reports that members of Maine-based reserve and National Guard units in Iraq are among those serving without the latest protective body armor.

Allen said families of service members from the Army Reserve's 94th Military Police Company and the National Guard's 1136th Transportation Company told him their sons and daughters have been deployed without the Interceptor vests.

The vests include removable ceramic plates in the front and back that can stop bullets fired by rifles common in Iraq and Afghanistan. Older-model vests can protect against shrapnel and other low-speed projectiles, but not high-velocity rifle rounds.

Allen said the military did not adequately plan for production of the armor, and as a result many service people are not receiving the full level of protection available.

Other congressmen also have denounced the Pentagon, saying as many as a quarter of the 130,000 troops in Iraq lack the best vests because of a sluggish supply chain.

Relatives of some soldiers have resorted to buying body armor in the United States and shipping it to their troops.

— Associated Press

[Back to top](#)